













## CONSTITUTION.

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ATLANTA, GA., October 21, 1892.

What Our Celebration Means.  
 Atlanta joins in with sister cities all over the union and celebrates the discovery of America.

But Columbus is not in it to a very great extent. It is true that we speak of "Columbus Day," the "Columbian Festival," and all that sort of thing, but we know very little definitely about Columbus, and are not prepared even to defend him from the assaults of his enemies.

The land alleged to have been discovered by him does not bear his name, but was named after the man who actually did not discover it. And it is doubtful whether a large majority of intelligent people now believe that Columbus was the discoverer. Left Ericson and others have their champions, and there is some very convincing literature in support of their claims.

When all these matters are considered, it is safe to say that we are not honoring Columbus today. We are simply celebrating the discovery of America by somebody, and putting the outside world upon notice that we are glad to be here.

This is the sum and substance of our demonstration. We are rejoicing over the fact that this land was discovered at a time when the oppressed millions of Europe needed new homes, new conditions and new destinies. We are jubilant because our ancestors had the good sense to move here and grow up with the country. We are proud because our forefathers fled from the oppression of the strong in the old world, and set up over here as oppressors themselves on a large scale.

We are thankful because we succeeded in exterminating the original owners of the soil, and we are tremendously puffed up because we started a successful revolution on account of a tax act's objectionable preamble, and licked the mother country out of her boots. We are stepping high because in 400 years we have grown to be a nation of 65,000,000, living in cotton and codfish, and paying higher taxes than any other people. We are

glowing because we have discovered the sea for a crowd of money kings in Wall street. We are blowing our trumpets because we can brag more of our liberty, and have less of it than other nations.

Yet we are glad to be here. We are our drawbacks and our advantages, our virtues and our faults, but we are very well satisfied with ourselves, and with the country, and we are just beginning our career of progress and jubilation. Let us celebrate and jubilate, and request the other nations to kindly send us off when our dizzy rush attains dizzy rates of speed!

Cities and their Suburbs.  
 The suburbs around Birmingham are clamoring for annexation.

At a recent meeting of the judiciary committee of the Birmingham council, delegates were present from Woodlawn, North Highlands, South Highlands, Elyton and Smithfield, and all were in favor of coming into the city. The speeches made by the delegates were to the effect that the suburbs needed better police protection, better streets, and more of the advantages of city life, and in return they were willing to pay their share of the city's taxes. They called attention to the value of their real estate and the loss of their population as inducements for Birmingham to consider. The committee will consider the matter, and report at a future day.

The action of these suburban towns is sensible. They will be benefited in many ways by annexation, and if they pay higher taxes they will get their money's worth in security, convenience and progress.

The day is coming when there will be very few suburbs under their own municipal government. It is to the advantage of the city to have the thickly settled districts surrounding our large cities within a radius of a few miles under one municipal system. In the end it will be found cheaper and more satisfactory.

Mr. Reid's Letter.  
 We did not print Mr. Whitelaw Reid's letter of acceptance and yet it cannot be denied that it is, in many respects, a remarkable document. It is evident in the first paragraph that the republican candidate for vice president felt called to do something out of the ordinary.

His idea of his own importance could be compressed into a convenient package and dumped on Brooklyn bridge structure would be shaken to its foundations. If, indeed, the bulwarks of the concern did not collapse under the pressure.

Being called on to do something remarkable, how was Mr. Reid to do it? He went about it in the simplest way. He went to the files of his paper, extracted seven or eight columns of political editorials, fished in the necessary number of adjectival phrases, and the thing was done. But after it is done, what is to be done of it? The Constitution in this busy time has no room for such a alarming

glance at its dull and heavy particulars. The singular feature of the letter, apart from its weariness, is the fact that a candidate for a second place on the ticket should imagine that he is under obligations to explain to the extent of five or six thousand words, why he is willing to accept the place. It is a very solemn force that he conceals, and the most that can be said of it is that it is in line with the heavy editorial articles which serve as its basis and framework. We presume that no one will ever know why Mr. Reid is disposed to take himself so seriously, but he could make money by writing an essay on the subject. Renan tells us why he was such a kindly disposed person, and Mr. Reid could leave us a souvenir showing why his egoism sticks out like the handles of a wheelbarrow.

Mr. Reid dismisses the force bill with a fine Parisian gesture of contempt. He declares that the democrats are clamoring about that measure in order to divert attention, and says that it scarcely calls for notice. This, too, in the face of the fact that when the force bill was up for discussion in the senate, Mr. Reid, in The Tribune, was saying that it contained the substance of a dozen McKinley bills. But now he says that if the discussion of the force bill "means anything," it means the nullification of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments.

As Mr. Halstead and other leading republicans have already begun to protest against the fifteenth amendment, we presume Mr. Reid has a right to say that such a movement is on foot, but why should he mix it up with his ridiculous effort to dodge the force bill?

The Republican Slump in New York.  
 The New York Herald and other newspapers of that state are making an effort to get at the drift of political sentiment in the rural regions of New York. The information which has been gathered comes from republican and democratic sources, and it is furnished by those who make it their business to keep in touch with public sentiment.

Thus far the bulk of the evidence goes to show that, while there is an apathy that touches and affects both parties, the republicans have lost ground heavily in some of the counties where heretofore they have been very strong. No detailed explanation is given for the slump which is predicted in the republican stronghold. The fact is apparent, and it is given without explanation.

The truth is, the slump in the republican vote, which has already attracted the attention of interested observers, marks the transition period in New York politics following the capture of the state by the democrats under Senator Hill's management. The finishing stroke has been given by the refusal of the court of appeals to undo that legislative opportunity act, and we shall now expect the republican party in New York, which has been held together solidly by the cohesive power of spoils—gathering, to go to pieces very rapidly.

We trust the collapse will be large enough to give the state to Cleveland by 30,000 majority.

Running Amuck in Politics.  
 An esteemed correspondent in Michigan suggests that Judge Albion W. Tourgee probably gets some of the material for his south-hating speeches and articles from a few reckless third party men in this region.

Our Michigan friend encloses an interview with Tourgee clipped from The Detroit News in which the judge declares that there is no free speech here and that a northern man has no rights that a southerner is bound to respect. He goes on to say:

"The northerners are viewed with contempt by the southern people, and by George, they deserve it. The people down here are stronger than we are. But 5,000 southern soldiers and they would rule the city. The only people they respect are those that can fight."

"Change? What in the name of God is that? What is the name of the change? Are we at work? On what do you base your idea? They have always denied free speech down here. Some who have tried to exercise this right have been killed, and others that weren't worth killing have been let alone. Under slavery the white man had a right to hold, sell or kill his slave. But now he has a man who is hanged for killing a slave if he couldn't pay the price. Now it is different. The white man says to the black, 'You shall not sell but I will pay wages not held meetings of any kind. In Mississippi, a short time ago, the negroes met to see what could be done to put the state constitution in line with the national constitution. They belonged to the Citizens' Civil Rights' association. A number of the negroes were killed. They tried to precipitate a race war. This is sure, that things are getting worse all the while. The young men are more bitter than their fathers. All this sentimental talk about 'growing friendship,' etc., is all fooliness."

"Remedy? The only remedy is the exerting of the judicial power of the United States. Since the state constitution has been changed for the murder of negroes. About 15,000 have been killed. Fudge! Nothing can be done as long as the north maintains its attitude."

Wild and absurd as this rabid talk may seem to intelligent readers, it must be admitted that Judge Tourgee is able to find southern men who are so dominated by the spirit of faction that they are willing to slander their own people in the most malignant fashion. Only a few days ago we gave an instance of this in the case of General Field, the third party candidate for vice president, who is the first and only man to assail the stainless name of Lee. And now Mr. Tourgee, III, Progressive Farmer prints an anonymous letter from Dewey Rose, Ga., written by a man who says that he is a native of Elbert county, in which he laid a lurid description of a battle at Ruckerville on the day of the state election. The letter charges the democrats with assaulting the third party voters and fatally shooting one or two. In conclusion, he speaks of threats to assassinate Congressman Watson, and despatches of a fair count in November unless federal troops are at the polls.

Anything more superlatively ridiculous and false could not be imagined, and yet this anonymous stuff written by third party men gives such south hating as Tourgee a text for their frantic ravings. These slanders will be circulated widely in the north and west, and will no doubt lead ready belief with the masses.

These political methods remind one of the Malay practice of running a stake—

slaying both friend and foe, without the slightest motive. The anonymous liars lose sight of the fact that they are injuring themselves, but it will come home to them. The southerner who turns against the great body of his people in this struggle for home rule will find that his false testimony will rise up when he least expects it to damage his own interests. He is simply arming unscrupulous sectional partisans with weapons which they will not hesitate to use for his destruction. We believe that this blind folly has done more to check immigration, and hurt our material interests than anything that has occurred since the federal government sent hordes of negro soldiers here in the vain attempt to destroy white supremacy in the reconstruction era.

Viewed in this light, Judge Tourgee is a respectable opponent, compared with the few southerners who are trying to bring anarchy upon their own people.

Colonel Cockerill and the Force Bill.  
 Colonel John A. Cockerill, formerly a Missouri kluks, but now a warm-hearted republican, is not, with all his ability, as graceful a plunger and dodger as Editor Halstead. It may be because he is a raw recruit, new to the business as it were, but certain it is he belongs to the awkward squad of republican editors. He lacks versatility—above all he lacks discretion. In trying to be a republican of the old school, he has hitched himself to a rickety and creaking cart that wobbles as it moves along.

Editor Halstead does very well with the force bill issue. He denies it and runs from it today, and ventures back to view its remains tomorrow. The affair has a fascination for him which he is at no pains to conceal, and he covers his retreat, as well as his return, with a grin humor and fetching diction that are much more satisfactory than some of the literature we find in the magazines.

But Editor Cockerill has lost his humor. When he was nothing but a plain piney-woods democrat, pecking away in an effort to make Uncle Joe Pulitzer's world the most sensational and salacious epitome of the ruck and roar of daily life, he was as light and free in his movements as a lively stable cat. But now that he has become a republican, dull desperation seems to have seized him.

The other day when he asked The Constitution to cite any evidence going to show the centralizing tendency of the republican party, or its desire or purpose to procure federal interference in state elections, we pointed solemnly to the force bill. This was too much for Editor Cockerill. "What force bill do you refer to?" yelled the colonel. "Certainly not the one which a republican congress—the fifty-first—refused to pass. Then what bill? Where is it? Who has it? Is it pending anywhere? Is somebody going to pass it? Who is the author of it?" This is terrible. This is republican editing with a vengeance. Only the other day, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the republican candidate for vice president, was exhorting the colored brethren at the north to keep their eyes on the force bill and to hold their votes in readiness to back up the force bill programme of the republican party. And now here is Editor Cockerill prancing around inquiring what the force bill is, where it is, and who is going to pass it, and declaring that the republicans refused to pass the force bill in 1890.

There is one other quotation we desire to make from this piney-woods democrat who has become a republican. He solemnly declares that the tendency of the democratic party is "toward the payment of the southern war debt and the re-establishment of slavery!"

Vexatious and Unnecessary.  
 In the language of some of our democratic platforms, we are opposed to all unnecessary laws that vex the citizen. When a law is just or necessary it is a great mistake to enforce it in a vexatious manner when other methods would do as well. Our contemporary, The Charleston News and Courier, contains a legal notice of several counties required to pay a poll tax, and at the head of the list is the following announcement:

"All persons whose names are on this list must pay one dollar to the county treasurer before December 15th or suffer the consequences."

We manage things differently here in Georgia. We have a poll tax, and the citizens pay it, some as a matter of duty, others because they cannot avoid it, and others still because the non-payment of the tax deprives them of the right to vote. But we do not publish threatening notices couched in the rudest possible terms. The South Carolina way is equivalent to publishing your debtor's name with the intimation that he will be severely dealt with if he fails to pay.

Such a citizen. They do not suit the spirit and temper of freemen.

When Editor Medell, Chicago, returns home late at night from his alfalfa fields, every street lamp casts the shadow of a hundred wildcat heads. We trust the friends of this amiable old journalist will keep an eye on him.

The deep base mouth of Foraker has been heard in New York. He roared like a bumble bee in a sugar barrel.

The workman that has his wages raised as the result of the tariff has not put in an appearance in the present campaign, although he could make considerable money by doing so.

The Vassar girls have organized a political club. It is cut bias and wears clock work socks.

General Boynton is now engaged in reviewing the achievements of Mr. Halstead as a military editor. We judge from the tone of Mr. Halstead's reply and rejoinder that the general is warming up to his work.

Some of the republican editors have already re-elected Harrison. We trust that they are getting extra pay for this work.

Governor Flower of New York appears to be chiefly composed of brains and backbone.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.  
 President Eliot, of Harvard, has forbidden the playing of "Marching Through Georgia" at republican students' rallies in the college building.

The recent ride of the German officers from Berlin to Vienna recalls a much more remarkable one made by F. X. Aubrey, a native of St. Louis, Mo., about thirty years ago, in the far west. He bet \$5,000 that he could

ride from Santa Fe, N. M., to Independence, Mo., within five consecutive days. According to the terms of the wager he was allowed only such rest as he could procure en route; that is, he was not to arrange for any in advance. As the country to be traversed was then a perfect wilderness to within a few miles of the coast, he was obliged to make his own way. He was accompanied by only one man, a cowboy named John. The only chance of obtaining fresh horses was from some roving band of wild Indians he might encounter, who were as likely to take Aubrey's saddle as to give him a ride. But fortune favored him, and he did obtain fresh horses at the "Crossing of the Arkansas" and at Council Grove, and won his bet in four days and fourteen hours, about 800 miles, at that he covered an average of nearly eight miles an hour for 110 consecutive hours, a feat of endurance that seems truly marvellous.

Our next eclipse will be total. It will be the eclipse of the republican luminary on the 8th proximo.

Major David E. Caldwell, formerly owner of The Atlanta Post-Appel, and late owner of The Lexington, Ken., Transylvania, died at Lexington last night, aged fifty-one. The major had many friends in Atlanta. He prospered here and also in Kentucky, and left his widow and daughter a comfortable fortune. His many admirable qualities of head and heart will cause his death to be mourned by a large circle.

JUST FROM GEORGIA.  
 Fall time in Georgia.  
 Fall time in Georgia that's the time for me!  
 Hickory nuts a-fallin' all cane juice down free!

Alas! it's the delectfullest that ever you did see!  
 Fall time in Georgia! that's the time for me!  
 Fall time in Georgia! that's the time for me!

Wagon loads of cotton just a-runnin' into town!  
 But, best of all the sweets a-fall—the bonnets all the curls!

Which goes a-searchin' for the red lips of the girls!  
 The moonest yet.  
 They took him and they strung him up as high as could be;

The limb it bent beneath him and came crashing down; but that it is not so scrupulously accurate in its statements as Mr. Fleming's home organ ought to be.

We confess to the soft impeachment that comes from an exultant degree of prominence in public affairs for a good long while, but respectfully deny to the suggestion that she has got more than her share of political honors. We are quite willing to compare accounts with Richmond, and invite Mr. Fleming's home organ to note carefully the contents of the record.

Here is the record:  
 Since the war Richmond county has furnished a governor in the person of Hon. Chas. J. Jenkins, who was elected at the constitutional convention in 1877.

Richmond has furnished a speaker of the house in the person of Hon. Joseph B. Cumming.

In 1888, Hon. M. V. Calvin, of Richmond county was speaker pro tem, and two years later was elected speaker pro tem of the senate after having been defeated for the presidency in 1890.

In 1894 Hon. John S. Davidson, of Richmond was elected speaker of the house, and he was again in the race for the presidency of the senate and the senate.

Hon. A. Wright, of Richmond, has filled the office of controller-general continuously since 1878 by all odds the best paying office in the state.

Hon. H. C. Roney, of Richmond has held the judgeship of the Augusta circuit uninterruptedly for twenty years, while Hon. Boykin Wright, of Richmond, has held the judgeship for twenty years, and both are now candidates for re-election.

Richmond county has had the solicitor-generalship of the Augusta circuit ever since the war.

Richmond has furnished the congressman from that district for a longer period since the reconstruction than has Covington since the reconstruction.

At the state democratic convention in August, 1892, W. T. Gary, of Richmond, was urged upon to make an address at the annual date for presidential election from the state at large, and he was elected without protest.

Richmond has the state senator this year in the person of Hon. J. B. Allen.

Covington has not had the judgeship of the solicitorship of this judicial circuit since these were abolished by the legislature.

Hon. T. A. Atkinson, the candidate for governor of the Covington circuit referred to by Mr. Fleming's home organ does not reside in this county, is a citizen of Meriwether, and is running upon his individual merits.

Covington has had no candidate for any state office since 1878, and that was Hon. J. B. Hunnicutt. Two years ago this worthy gentleman went before the state convention and asked the nomination for commissioner of agriculture.

Covington has had no candidate for president of the senate, and until the present year, has had no candidate for speaker of the house.

Is Mr. Fleming's home organ satisfied with the comparison? Does not Mr. Fleming's home organ know that the larger cities of the state have furnished the speaker of the house for a quarter of a century? There was Cumming, of Augusta; Smith, of Little of Columbia; Howell, of Atlanta—the one exception referred to, being Clay, of Marietta. Does Mr. Fleming's home organ consider it "grasping" to make a comparison between the speaker of the house and the speaker of the house?

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## THE SPEAKERSHIP RACE.

(Communicated.)

The Candidacy of Hon. W. T. Atkinson and His Opponents.

From the New York Herald and Advertiser.

The Augusta Evening News, published in the city of Hon. W. T. Atkinson's residence, pre-views the following reasons why Hon. W. T. Atkinson should not be elected to the speakership of the next house:

"Does Covington want the earth?"

"If it does, it ought to have it. I preferred not to commit myself without knowing who the candidates would be. I preferred not to pledge myself to any one, and not one word was said by either as to the possibility of becoming a candidate for speaker myself."

Mr. Atkinson was perfectly sincere in his statement to Mr. Fleming, and his friends in Covington will bear testimony to the fact that, upon his return home, he persistently refused to become a candidate for speaker of the senate or house, although repeatedly urged to do so. The several gentlemen who subsequently announced for the state senate did him the honor to offer to retire voluntarily from the race if he would run, but he declined. Finally, friends concluded to return him to the house, anyway, and they were so to put him in the speaker's chair. He demurred even to this proposition, and only after persistent persuasion did he consent to be put in the speaker's chair.

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